

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 110231
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110231

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, NU

SUBJECT:HUMAN RIGHTS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CONGRESS

REF: (A) MANAGUA 2178 (B) STATE 90555

1. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND CONGRESS
CONTINUE, AS STATED IN REF (B). RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE WERE RELAYED IN TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF LAST WEEK.

2. IN THE MARKUP SESSIONS WEEK OF MAY 1 ON SECURITY ASSIS-
TANCE PROGRAMS, THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN ASSIS-
TANCE OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE DEPARTMENT'S
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 110231

POSITION AS STATED IN BRAY'S TESTIMONY WITH RESPECT TO
NICARAGUA (I.E., THAT \$3.1 MILLION ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE
AUTHORIZED, BUT FY77 AND 78 AGGREEMENTS WOULD BE SIGNED
ONLY AFTER IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
NICARAGUA AND THAT WE WOULD FIRST CONSULT WITH HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO DETERMINE THERE HAD BEEN SUCH
IMPROVEMENT BEFORE SIGNING FY 78 AGREEMENT.) THE HOUSE

READILY AGREED WITH OUR POSITION, BUT IT REQUIRED STRONG REPRESENTATION FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS BEFORE THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ACCEPTED OUR VIEWS. THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE, JUST PRIOR TO MARKUP, SEEMED ON VERGE OF ELIMINATING ALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE (EXCEPT TRAINING) TO THE GON. THE ISSUE CONTINUES IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES DURING WEEKS OF MAY 8 AND 15.

3. ON MAY 10, BRAY AND OFFICERS FROM H AND ARA/CEN MET WITH CONGRESSMAN KOCH. KOCH SHOWED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN HIS ORIGINAL POSITION OF CUTTING ALL SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GON. NOW HE PROPOSES THAT CONGRESS NOT APPROPRIATE FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO THE GON, BUT IN THE EVENT THERE WERE TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT WOULD EXPRESS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL. DURING CONVERSATION WITH KOCH, DEPTOFFS EMPHASIZED THAT BRAY TESTIMONY POSITION GAVE US MORE LEVERAGE WITH THE GON AND WOULD BE LESS OFFENSIVE TO SOMOZA.

REMAINED FIRM ON HIS PROPOSAL. DEPTOFFS OFFERED TO DISCUSS KOCH'S PROPOSAL WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND RETURN TO HIM SHORTLY WITH AN ANSWER.

4. OUR TACTIC IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION, WITH OUTLOOK FOR FY 78 SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA NOT BRIGHT. WE WILL KEEP THE EMBASSY ABREAST OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 110231

INFORMATION SHOWING SOME IMPROVEMENT IN NICARAGUA HAS BEEN INCORPORATED IN BRIEFING MATERIALS FOR KEY CONGRESSMEN AND OUR REPRESENTATIVE AT COMMITTEE HEARINGS, AND IS BEING USED AS APPROPRIATE.

5. NEW ARA/CEN DIRECTOR MATTHEWS' CALL ON NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR SEVILLA-SACASA ON MAY 3 EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF POSITIVE AND EARLY NICARAGUAN ACTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IF GON WISHES TO INFLUENCE PRESENT HOSTILE ATTITUDE IN CONGRESS TOWARD FY78 SECURITY AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA.

6. UNCLASSIFIED SEPTOLON APRIL 5 AND 21 HOUSE TESTIMONY FOLLOWS. TRANSCRIPT BEING POUCHED FOR ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR. PLEASE CABLE ANY PROPOSED DEPARTMENT COMMENT ON TESTIMONY RE U.S. PROGRAMS. CHRISTOPHER

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